

Bloomington Arts Commission
Wednesday, May 14, 2014 5pm
McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall

MINUTES

Present: Peter Jacobi, Craig Widen, Paul Sturm, Martina Celerin, Sally Gaskill, Lynn Schwartzberg, Abby Henkel, Francesca Sobrer, Alain Barker

Absent: Jan Grant, Jean Kautt

Ex Officio: Miah Michaelson, John Whikehart, Susan Sandberg

Call to order: Miah Michaelson called to order at 5:00pm

2014 Arts Project Grants: Miah Michaelson

- Briefly reviewed spreadsheet
- Survey from applicants should be in by June meeting

Treasurer's Report: Craig Widen

- 402 Account (Municipal)
- 403 (Operating)

Approval of March minutes

- Lynn moves, Martina seconds. All in favor.

Visit with Deputy Mayor John Whikehart

- Expressed his past and future commitment to the arts
- Miah notes: John is one of the main City employees she consults for policy questions, etc.
- Craig asks how the City's finances look for the next 2 years. John responds that this will be determined as the 2015 budget is developed. We'll likely still be in a tight budget.
- Sally: How can we boost the City's arts budget? John: Approx 80% of the City's budget is fixed. Miah: Departments have to make their cases.
- Miah: If the department has a more formalized and detailed request, that could be more effective in getting more arts money.
- One challenge of the BAC is to position ourselves among all the arts organizations
- Susan Sandberg: City Council has budget meeting soon. Council members can bring data supporting their priorities. They'll present to Mayor on May 28.
 - Opportunities:
 - Partner funding with private support
 - IAC changes
 - City funding for projects in PAMP, not just Arts Project Grants
 - Strategically approach industry
 - Create incentives for developers (such as TIFs)
 - Arts Commission needs to have a clear intent and purpose.
 - We need to provide evidence of our success

Old Business:

Public Art Master Plan

- Principles for Public Art
 - Focuses too heavily on sculpture
 - Second paragraph added to include permanent and transitory works
- Ideal Public Art Environment
 - Quality has been added
 - How to express need for full audiences?
- IU and other educational institutions are included
- Opportunities for public art
 - Language reflects aspirations, not “issues”
 - Include county government
 - Could call it aspirations or objectives
 - Geographic impact should include new and expanding places (i.e. I-69 corridor)
- Priorities for public art
 - Educational institutions should be included in the plan for more coordination and collaboration
- This document is close to being final and voted on
 - Then we’ll use it to identify priorities and develop an action plan
 - Base our plan on our strategic plan
 - How are we going to communicate this plan?
 - Arts Season Roll-out in early Fall?

New Business

Request to consider action on raising the minimum wage

- Commission on the Status of Women asking for input on their resolution advocating for an increase in the federal minimum wage
- Sally moves to support the resolution, Paul seconds. All are in favor.
- Craig points out that the businesses that are being recruited are minimum wage. Miah: We’re also recruiting the tech sector.

Governor’s Arts Award sculpture

- Artist is making 5 replicas as donations to the cultural districts in the state.
- Miah is negotiating with the artist’s agent. Commission will have an opportunity to weigh in on location.
 - Ivy Tech is interested in a sculpture plaza on the south side of the Waldron

Staff Report

- Public Art
 - Transit: Both projects in fabrication. Met to discuss installation specifics. Dates for installation will most likely be in June. Opening – late June, early July.
 - Gateway Project: Public input is closed. Met with artist and engineering staff on Friday to discuss installation attachments.
 - 17th and Arlington: Crescent Bend Neighborhood Association has applied for a Neighborhood
 - Improvement Grant for a sculpture. Waiting to hear on funding.

- YMCA: Working the new Northwest YMCA on a sculpture project for their grounds.
 - Stop and StART: Several new signal boxes in the process of being “adopted”.
- BEAD
 - May Meeting: Monday, May 19, noon McCloskey Room, City Hall.
 - May Exhibit: Laura Bulla
- Other
 - Small group meeting with Lewis Ricci (IAC) to discuss the future of Region 8. May 22.
 - Tourism week May 19.
 - Registration open for Elaine Luttrull Workshop

Craig proposes that the Commission comes up with one project at the June meeting for the BAC to start on. Provide time to brainstorm during meetings.

- Craig moves to have this discussion at the June meeting. Alain seconds. All in favor.